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CLAIMS

1. Control station for controlling a plurality of accessories (a¹, a², a³, a⁴) on the exterior of an aircraft, the control station including:
 - a single visual display unit (8),
 - a single hand operable manipulation device (10),
 - a selection facility (22) for selecting an accessory (a¹, a², a³, a⁴) to be controlled,the control station being arranged such that upon selection of an accessory (a¹, a², a³, a⁴) the single hand operable manipulation device (10) is usable for controlling the selected accessory (a¹, a², a³, a⁴), the control station being further arranged such that upon selection of an accessory (a¹, a², a³, a⁴) the visual display unit (8) is operated to display information relating to the selected accessory (a¹, a², a³, a⁴).
- ~~2. Control station according to claim 1, wherein a switching unit (6) is provided and control lines lead from the accessories (a¹, a², a³, a⁴) to the switching unit (6) and wherein a single control line leads from the switching unit (6) to the visual display unit (8).~~
3. Control station according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the selection facility (22) is included within the visual display unit (8).
4. Control station according to claim 3, wherein the selection facility comprises a plurality of selection switches (22) around the periphery of a screen (21), the visual display unit (8) being arranged such as to indicate the function of a respective selection switch (22) in a screen region adjacent to a respective one of the selection switches.

5. Control station according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the selection facility comprises a plurality of indicator lights (22) around the periphery of a touch screen type screen (21), the visual display unit (8) being arranged such as to indicate the function of the respective indicator lights (22) in a screen region adjacent to the respective ones of the indicator lights (22).
6. Control station according to one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the control station further comprises means (11, 12) for supporting the visual display unit (8) and the hand operable manipulation device (10), the support means (11, 12) being positionable adjacent to an aircraft seat (13).
7. Control station according to claim 6, wherein the visual display unit is supported by the support means (11, 12) in a variable manner such as to be positionable in a position in front of an operator seated in an aircraft seat (13) and in a position on one side of the aircraft seat (13) for not inhibiting entry into and exit of the aircraft seat (13).
8. Control station according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the support means ~~(11, 12) comprises a receptacle positionable on a side of an aircraft~~ (13), the visual display unit being located within the receptacle.

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